

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed September 30, 2004. Following entry of this paper, prompt examination of the elected claims on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the recent Office Action, the Office imposed a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §. 121. According to the Office, the present application claims two independent and distinct inventions represented by the following claim groups:

1. Claims 1-16 and 22-34; and
2. Claims 17-21.


Accordingly, Applicant hereby elects the claims of group 1, claims 1-16 and 22-34 for immediate examination. Accordingly, claims 17-21 are labeled as “withdrawn” herein.

Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a continuation or divisional application to the unelected claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: 28 October 2004


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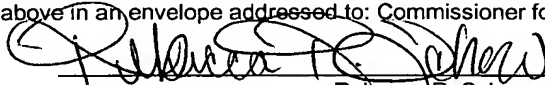
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

DATE OF DEPOSIT: October 28, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Rebecca R. Schow